

Adams Mill Bridge
Cutler
Carroll Co.
Indiana

HAER No. IN-29

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Engineering Record
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Department of the Interior
Washington D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Adams Mill Covered Bridge

HAER IN-29

Location:	Spanning Wildcat Creek on Rd. 50, 0.8 miles northeast of Cutler UTM: 16.541360.4481340 Quad: Rossville, Indiana
Present Owner:	
Significance:	The Adams Mill Bridge is a typical example of the Howe Truss.
Historian:	Robert Rosenberg

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The Adams Mill Covered Bridge, located northwest of the village of Adams Mill, spans the Wildcat Creek about .8 miles northwest of Cutler. Constructed in 1871, the Adams Mill Bridge was a 17 panel Howe truss with a clear span of 248 feet and a height of 17 feet from peak to ridge beam. The bridge was later modified by the addition of auxiliary arches.

The Howe truss system was a product of the inventive imagination of William H. Howe. Born into a family of inventors in 1803, he worked as a millwright before patenting his truss system in 1840.

The patented innovation that was introduced in the Howe truss was the use of iron bars as tension members. The use of the bars in conjunction with turnbuckles made it possible to regulate the tension and overcome separation of the upper and lower cords, a problem frequently encountered in all wood bridges. Howe's use of iron tension members was a progressive innovation.

Adams Mill Covered Bridge

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